Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 00984 301454Z

43
ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05

IGA-02 L-03 MC-02 /035 W
---------- 105446
P 301425Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8413
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BIEURT 0984

SECDEF FOR ASD; ISA; CINCEUR FOR ECJ4/7-SA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS
SUBJ: FY 1977 MILITARY SECURITY ASSISTANCE

REF: A. STATE MSG 017013/DTG 230319Z JAN 76
B. OUR MSG 0824/DTG 261408Z JAN 76

THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BELOW IS PREDICATED ON THE ASSUMPTIONS THAT BY FY 1977 THE GOL WILL HAVE REESTABLISHED NATIONAL CONTROL OVER ITS INTERNAL SECURITY AND THAT IT WILL BE IN A POSITION POLITICALLY TO CARRY OUT ITS INTERNAL SECURITY MANDATE. ADVERSE IMPACT OF LATEST EVENTS ON LEBANESE SECURITY FORCES (GENDARMERIE AND ARMED FORCES) BEING REPORTED BY SEPTEL. COMMENTS ARE KEYED TO PARA 6 OF REF A:

A. WE BELIEVE THAT GOL WILL WELCOME THE OFFER OF THE $5 MILLION CREDIT AGREEMENT AND WILL MAKE EVERY ATTEMPT TO CONSUMMATE IT. HOWEVER, WE HAVE YET TO SEE GOL COMPLETE ALL REPEAT ALL OF THE LEGAL PROCEDURES PRESCRIBED BY THE LEBANESE CONSTITUTION FOR APPROVAL OF SUCH AGREEMENTS. IN EARLY JAN 1976, THE DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE CG OF THE LEBANESE ARMED FORCES (LAF) WHICH INDICATED THAT DEFENSE MINISTER/PM KARAMI HAD ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE THE IDEA OF FMS CREDIT IN FY 1976,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 00984 301454Z

BUT THAT NO FINAL DECISION COULD BE MADE UNTIL INFORMA-

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

TION CONCERNING INTEREST RATES AND REPAYMENT SCHEDULE
WAS AVAILABLE. WITH THE CONSCRIPTION LAW NOW APPROVED
BY PARLIAMENT, AND FACING A PROBABLE MAJOR REORGANIZATION
OF BOTH THE LAF AND INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES (ISF), IT
IS LIKELY THAT GOL WILL BE MORE INTERESTED IN FMS CREDIT
THAN BEFORE.
B. IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO FORECAST MAJOR MILITARY
ITEMS TO BE PROCURED AT THIS TIME. ACTUAL ACQUISI-
TION WILL DEPEND ON WHETHER FMS CRDIT IS OFFERE (AND
ACCEPTED) IN FY 76 AND HOW RAPICLY THE LAF AND ISF ARE TO
BE REORGANIZED AND RE-EQUIPPED. PROCUREMENT PRIORITIES
IN FY 77 (FMS CASH AND CREDIT) WILL LIKELY BE: ARMORED
PERSONNEL CARRIERS AND ARMORED CARS; SMALL ARMS (M-16A1
RIFLES AND M-60 MG); COMAND AND CONTROL EQIIPMENT (PRI-
MARILY RADIOS); 1/4 AND 2 1/2 TON TRUCKS; AND POSSIBLY
TROOP TRANSPORT HELICOPTERS.
C. PROVISION OF CREDIT SUPPORTS A MILITARY REQUIRE-
MENT IN THAT ALL ARMS/EQUIPMENT THAT WOULD BE PROCURED
UNDER A CREDIT AGREEMENT ARE ORIENTED TOWARD INTERNAL SE-
CURITY.D. WE ARE AWARE OF NO OTHER MILITARY JUSTIFICATION
FOR EXTENSION OF CREDIT.
E. AT THIS TIME, GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON
IS LIMITED TO TRAINING. HOWEVER, AS INDICATED IN REF B,
WE MAY RECEIVE AN OFFICIAL REQUEST FOR GRANT AID MATERIAL
IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE ONLY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CURRENT
GRANT TRAINING AND THE CREDIT PROGRAM IS THAT A PORTION
OF THE TRAINING PROGRAM IS ALLOCATED TO PROVIDING OPERA-
TOR MAINTENANCE SKILLS FOR EQUIPMENT PROCURED UNDER FMS
CREDIT.
F. US SECURITY ASSISTANCE OBJECTIVES FOR LEBANON ARE:
1) TO PROMOTE FAVORABLE BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH LEBANON
TO MAINTAIN A PRO-WEST ORIENTATION, PARTICULARLY WITHIN
THE LAF; AND 2) TO ASSIST LEBANON IN IMPROVING ITS DEFENSE
CAPABILITIES, WITH PARTICULAR REGARD TO THE INTERNAL
SECURITY MISSION. IT IS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS HOW LONG IT
WILL TAKE THE LAF TO RECONSTITUTE THEMSELVES AS A VIABLE
FORCE AGAIN CAPABLE OF ASSURING INTERNAL SECURITY. THEY
ARE NO LONGER CAPABLE OF DOING SO BECUASE OF THE INCREASED
RELATIVE COMBAT POWER OF THE LEBANESE LEFT AND SUPPORTING
PALESTINIAN FORCES, AND THE PARTIAL DISINTEGRATION OF THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 00984 301454Z

LAF IN THE LAST ROUND OF FIGHTING THAT PRECEDED THE
SYRIAN INITIATED JANUARY CEASE FIRE. THE LAF NEED
A SOURCE OF MODERN EQUIPMENT NOT ONLY TO BRING THEM BACK
TO THEIR PREROUND FOUR CAPABILITY, BUT ALSO TO INCREASE
THEIR FORCE LEVELS TO THE POINT THAT THEY ARE ABLE TO
GUARANTEE INTERNAL SECURITY. PROVISION OF CREDIT
WOULD REASSURE GOL OF CONTINUED US SUPPORT, PERHAPS A
CRITICAL POINT AT THIS JUNCTURE IN LEBANESE HISTORY.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

G. A CREDIT AGREEMENT WILL NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE
REGIONAL ARMS BALANCE OR CONTRIBUTE TO AN ARMS RACE AS LAF
IS GROSSLY INFERIOR IN SIZE AND STRENGTH TO ARMED
FORCES OF NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.
H. GOL HAS RECEIVED A FEW ARMS AND HAS BEEN PROMISED
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM ARMS FROM ARAB LEAGUE
COUNTRIES. WE REMAIN UNABLE AT THIS TIME TO ASSESS TO WHAT
EXTENT THIS ASSISTANCE WILL ALLOW GOL TO OBTAIN EQUIPMENT SOLELY
ON A CASH BASIS. FUTURE ARAB ASSISTANCE MAY BE DEVOTED
ENTIRELY TO REBUILDING THE ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE, WITH
NO ASSISTANCE FOR MILITARY PROCUREMENT. WHILE LEBANON IS
FAR FROMA POOR COUNTRY, ITS GOVERNMENT PROCESSES ARE
SUCH THAT WE CONNOT BE SURE THAT IN ANY GIVEN YEAR MONEY WOULD
BE APPROPRIATED TO MATCH LAF'S PERCEIVED NEEDS, PERMITTING
CASH PURCHASE.
I. IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE THE FULL ECONOMIC IM-
PACT OF FOUR PLUS ROUNDS OF CIVIL STRIFE CAN BE FULLY
ASSESSED. IF OUTSIDE AID FROM WEALTHY ARAB STATES IS NOT
FORTHCOMING, THE DEFENSE BUDGET MIGHT THEN ENCOUNTER DIF-
FICULTIES. HOWEVER, REPAYMENT OF $5 MILLION CREDIT SHOULD
NOT IN ITSELF PLACE HEAVY OR UNDERSIRABLE BURDEN ON
COUNTRY'S RESOURCES.
J. WE HEARD UNOFFICIALLY THAT LAF WAS NEGOTIATING FOR
THE PURCHASE OF SOME MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM BRITAIN,
SPAIN AND FRANCE, BUT AS THESE TYPES OF EQUIPMENT ARE
NOT AVAILABLE FROM US SOURCES, IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO
BE RELEVANT TO THE EXTENSION OF PROPOSED FY 77 CREDIT.
AS FAR AS US PROCUREMENT IS CONCERNED, THE LOAN MIGHT
ENABLE THE LAF TO BUY SOME ITEMS THAT THEY WILL NEED FOR
THE RESTORATION OF THE LAF AND ISF THAT WOULD HAVE TO
BE OTHERWISE DELAYED.
LAMBRAKIS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, NATIONAL SECURITY, CREDIT PROGRAMS, US CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT00984
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760036-0201
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976017/aaaaaexr.tel
Line Count: 146
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 17013
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <13 OCT 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FY 1977 MILITARY SECURITY ASSISTANCE
TAGS: MASS, LE
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006